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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/055,778

01/23/2002

Donna D. Holland

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03/04/2004

GENZYME CORPORATION
LEGAL DEPARTMENT
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FRAMINGHAM, MA 01701-9322

EXAMINER

O CONNOR, CARY E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3732

DATE MAILED: 03/04/2004

14

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Applicati n No.

10/055,778

Applicant(s)

HOLLAND ET AL

CA

Examin r

Cary E. O'Connor

Art Unit

3732

– The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address –

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 10-20 and 48 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 9, 21-24, 29-35, 39-44 and 47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-8, 25-28, 36-38, 45 and 46 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 9, 21-24, 29-35, 39-44, 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Evans et al (6,322,499) in view of Hipps (6,228,025). Evans shows an illuminated retractor comprising a handle member 20 having a first handle member end portion 22 and a second handle member end portion 24, and a first elongate section 30 having proximal and distal end portions 34, 32 and a first inner surface 38 extending from the proximal end portion to near the distal end portion wherein the second handle member end portion is connected to the first elongate section by a twist connector and forms an acute angle therebetween (col. 7, lines 57-61). The second handle member end portion is pivotally connected to the first elongate member (col. 8, lines 59-60). The retractor also includes a second elongate section 40 having proximal and distal end portions and a second inner surface 48 extending between the ends. The second elongate section is connected to the first elongate section such that the sections are substantially aligned. The distal end portion of the second elongate section defines an illuminating output member 49. The proximal end

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portion of the first elongate section has an insertion area 39 for receipt of a portion of the second elongate section. As to claim 9, note the chamfered surface 52 that has an angle in the range of 30 to 60 degrees. As to claim 21, note column 10, lines 31-36. As to claim 22, the insertion area 47 is formed as a U-shaped flap. As to claim 43, note that the illumination input end 49 is coupled to the optical cable 27 through the twist connector. The first elongate inner surface does not have a non-linear shape. Hipps shows a retractor having a first elongate section 30 having an inner surface 38 having a curved (bent) shape (see Figure 2B) to prevent trauma to the tissue. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the inner surface of Evans to have a curved (non-linear) shape, as taught by Hipps, in order to prevent trauma to the tissue.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-20 and 48 are allowed.

Claims 4-8, 25-28, 36-38, 45, 46 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments


Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 21, 35 and 48 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. These claims do not specify that the inner surface is non-linear in the longitudinal direction.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cary E. O'Connor whose telephone number is 703-308-2701. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin P. Shaver can be reached on 703-308-2582. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-872-9306 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.


Cary E. O'Connor
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3732

ceo
March 2, 2004